# currents

## what's happening at the bridge

**Our *mission* at the bridge Presbyterian Church is to help people**
**Connect with God's people in your life**
**Connect with God's purpose in your life**
**Connect with God's passion for your life**

## Ways to Connect with God's *mission* at the bridge

**Fri. Nov. 22** - 10:00 am - Book Club Small Group
**Sun. Nov. 24** - **Equal Exchange Thanksgiving order Pick ups**
**Wed. Nov. 27** - **Church Office closing at Noon - Currents will go out Wednesday**
**Wed. Nov. 27** - 7:00 pm - Community Thanksgiving Service - Woodburn Pres. Church
**Thu. Nov. 28** - **Thanksgiving -- Church Office Closed**
**Fri. Nov. 29** - **Church Office Closed**
**Sun. Dec. 1** - Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders - after 2nd service
**Mon. Dec. 2** - 11:00 am - Communion Luncheon with 1st Pres.
**Mon. Dec. 2** - 2:00 pm - Leland House Worship
**Fri. Dec. 6** - 1:00 pm - Women of the bridge
**Sun. Dec. 8** - 11:45 am - Matthew's Ministry Packing
**Sun. Dec. 8** - **Deadline for Equal Exchange orders for Christmas**
**Mon. Dec. 9** - 2:00 pm - Leland House Craft Day
**Sun. Dec. 15** - **Equal Exchange Christmas order pick up**

**Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing Elders Class of 2022**

**Sunday Dec. 1st - after 2nd service**

## Weekly Small Groups

**Mon.** - 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts and SOS (Siblings of Scouts)
**Tue.** - 10:00 am - Sleep Mats for Homeless
**Tue.** - 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Group Meeting
**Tue.** - 7:00 pm - A.A. Group Meeting
**Wed.** - 8:00 am - Men's Prayer and Share Small Group
**Sat.** - 7:00 pm - A.A. Group Meeting

## Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing Elders - Class of 2022

## Sunday Dec. 1st - after 2nd service

We will be voting on new elders to fill 3 year terms on session. These new elders will fill positions of elders who have completed their 3 year terms.

A huge thank you to the Nominating Committee, who have worked many hours to discern God's will. The nominating committee consists of Patti Pirher, Ethel Adams, Pat Smith, David Sink and Dennis Rumpf (who recused himself while the team discussed Hospitality Elder)

### The nominating committee has nominated the following:

- Julie Shackleton - Small Group Elder
- Charles Riddle - Long Range Planning Ministry Elder
- Fran Rumpf - Hospitality Ministry Elder

The Prospect Elders Bios will be in next weeks Currents

**The bridge Core Habits**

What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like at ***the bridge****? Our core habits answer that question. Our core habits are:*

*Pray daily - Worship together weekly - Welcome & Include everyone - Belong to a small group - Give generously - Cherish children - Forgive & reconcile continually - Serve our community*

# Worship Weekly

## This Sunday Is Christ the King Sunday!

The festival of Christ the King was established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI. Originally it took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins.

The service leads the Church in giving thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign. Our service at the bridge will trace the major events in the life of Christ, from the beginning of his incarnation to his exaltation as King. The focus is on the mighty work of God through Christ's sacrifice that results in his crowning as King, fulfilling the prophecy made in Psalm 11:4. Our service will feature a rhythm of Scripture reading, followed by an explanation of the passage and a song.

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation will stand together and recite the Nicene Creed.

Explanation of the Nicene Creed by Dr. Andrew Purves:

The young church took a long time to codify what it believed. Especially there was deep confusion over the identity of Jesus in relation to God. In 325 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 summoned a council of bishops to meet at Nicaea, in what is now Turkey, to resolved the dispute. There were perhaps 318 bishops, led by Alexander of Alexandria, whose deacon was a young priest, Athanasius, who was to become arguably the greatest theologian of the church, and who was the author of the creed behind the scenes.

The principal issue was this: Was Jesus like the Father or was he of the same being as the Father? It all came down to an *iota*, the Greek letter 'i.' Was Jesus *homoiousios* ('similar substance') or *homoousios* ('same substance') with the Father? That is, when we deal with Jesus are we dealing with someone who **was like** God or **who was** God? The doctrines of the Trinity, Incarnation and Salvation were at stake.

The Council decided that Jesus was God, "of one being with the Father," (*homoousios to Patri*). So when we recite the creed, notice that line. The whole of Christian faith depends upon it.

Nicaea was the first ecumenical council of the church, and it is the only creed accepted by both the Eastern and Western churches (the Apostles' Creed is not accepted by the Orthodox Churches). Notice, too, that it is organized according to a Trinitarian pattern: the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord.

## bridge "Notes" from Patty

I was reflecting this morning on how much fun our Siblings of Scouts had Monday night making their Thanksgiving leaf wreaths. Here's a shout out to Patti Pirher for being an amazing craft leader! It's interesting to me that when kids are making crafts together, they are completely engaged and happy. In the age of electronics; finding something that creates this atmosphere is a blessing to parents and teachers alike. My school doesn't have an art teacher this year and when I bring in something to color or make, even my otherwise "bored" teenagers are really into it.

Thank you SOS volunteers for all you did to make November a really fun experience on Monday nights. We appreciate you more than you will ever know! If you want to sponsor a Christmas craft creation for SOS in December, you certainly can! Let me know what and when. My sister and I agreed at a very early age that she would be art and I would be music so my craft skills are all with my big sister. Thanks again everyone that helped in November and please let me know if you want to pitch in for Dec. Here's a video to show you what "craft joy" looks like.
See ya Sunday.
Patty

https://youtu.be/DjQv92p11-4

### Be in prayer for our upcoming Advent Series

# Welcome and Include Everyone

## Servers for Sunday, November 24th

### Ushers

**9:00 am** – Sandy and Peter Barrett, John Lapatchka, Sarah Noll

**10:30 am -** Bettye Weihs, Cathy Purves, Rich and Ruth Hepner

### Connecting Partners

**9:00 am -** Kathy Dixon

**10:30 am -** Judy Bath and Suzanne Veen

### Greeters

**9:00 am -** Sandy and Peter Barrett

**10:30 am -** Rich and Ruth Hepner

# Pray Daily

- Donna Maher - possible stress fracture on foot

# Give Generously

## Last Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019

Attendance 130 (4-week average)
Offering $ 4,988 (4-week average)
Offering $ 4,854 (8-week average)
Actual Attendance 131
Actual Offering $ 4,448

# Belong to a Small Group

**Supper Club Starts in January**

New supper clubs will be the third Sunday of each month, at 6:00 p.m., for four months; the first being January 19, 2020, followed by February 16, March 15, and April 19.

Each group will have four couples, one of the couples being the host each month. Coordinator Mary Campbell will assign first hosts for each group; after that, groups will decide who hosts each month. Suppers are in hosts' homes.

You can sign up for the main list, or as a substitute if someone can't make it to a particular meet. Right now, 27 couples have signed, but singles are also welcomed, and there is no limit to how many can sign up, only a deadline of January 1, 2020 for the first 4-week session. Initial groupings will be done alphabetically, then after the first four-month period, the list will be shuffled and regrouped for May through August, etc..

The Host couple decides on and prepares the main dish, and non-alcoholic drinks, and coordinates with the others to bring sides and dessert. Feel free to bring your beverage of choice.

We hope as many as possible will sign up and look forward to this opportunity to enjoy time together.

Mary Campbell, coordinator
carlislecampbell@gmail.com
910-269-9696

# Cherish Children

**bridge Builders, our Sunday morning children's program, is located in suite 206 during the 10:30 service. A nursery for infants and toddlers is also provided during the 10:30 service**

**Sunday Nov. 24th:**

**Teacher:** Judy Hogg

**Toddlers/Babies:** Matt and Lydia Stevens

# Serve Our Community

## From the Mission Elder

One purpose of our Mission Team is to form partnerships with vetted assistance and service organizations so we can most effectively help the people of Northern Brunswick County and the world. Another is to provide a variety of mission projects to help our members connect with their passion and purpose for life.

There is great need and our bridge family is very generous. However, we don't want folks to get overwhelmed with giving options, and don't want them to feel pressured to support every project. Let us know if you have ideas for donations, but please do not provide information to the congregation without asking the Mission Team first.
Thank you, Patti Pirher

## Christmas Stockings for Kids World Academy

Cherish the children of Leland this Christmas! Our Church-Wide Mission Project will be preparing stockings for the students at Kids World Academy. KWA is a preschool for 4-year-olds who are from low income or military families, or disabled, to prepare them for Kindergarten. A sign up sheet with your choice to sponsor a boy or girl will be available November 10. Stockings will be provided with a list of suggested items. All gifts must fit inside, and the stocking labeled for a boy or girl. More details to come. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this Sustainable Mission Partner of the bridge.

## Service of Lessons and Carols at Leland House

On Monday, December 2nd, we will celebrate the Advent season with the residents of Leland House at a special worship service. We will be telling the Christmas story through Scripture readings and singing Christmas carols. At this service we will need ***several readers*** and people to help with Christmas refreshments after our worship. Please sign up on the sheet outside the Worship Center if you are able to help with the worship or the fellowship. All are welcome to join us!! Leland House is an Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Leland (1935 Lincoln Rd NE).

## Long Term Disaster Recovery Update

Now that we are late in the recovery phase for Matthew and Florence we have moved into **workshop** season to get us ready for the next event

**"A Developmental Look at Trauma"** workshop is scheduled for November 21, at Trillium Health Resources in Wilmington. The session starts at 11:00AM. Details are in in a flyer you can request by email: edweihs2015@gmail.com.
**"Disaster Preparedness Resource Fair"** is scheduled for November 22, at Riverside Park in Castle Hayne. The fair begins at 11:00AM, ends at 1:00 pm. Email for the flyer: edweihs2015@gmail.com

An upcoming **Continuity of Operations Planning** (COOP) workshop, geared towards child-serving and community based organizations. If you would like to attend, a registration link is included in the flyer you can request by email: edweihs 2019@gmail.com.

# Misc. Announcements

## Celebrating Birthdays at the bridge - November

| | |
|---|---|
| Patti Pirher | 4 |
| Elizabeth Murray | 13 |
| Judy Bath | 17 |
| Del Shaffar | 17 |
| Peter Barrett | 22 |
| Sharon Cushing | 22 |
| Donna Maher | 22 |
| Lynne Lewis | 29 |

## Advent Devotional Resources you may want to order.

# It's Equal Exchange Holiday Gift Time!

This year give a gift that makes a difference. Fill a holiday gift bag with Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, chocolate bars and minis, and hot cocoa mix or purchase holiday gift baskets of coffee (one bag), a bag of minis, and a chocolate bar.

We at the bridge support small-scale farmers all over the world through the purchase of these items from Equal Exchange in partnership with the Presbyterian Coffee Project. Equal Exchange coffee is the delicious coffee we serve every Sunday.

From Sunday **November 3 to December 10**, you'll have a chance to order customized Holiday Gift Bags as well as chocolate bars and gift baskets.

Here's how it works: Order forms and product information sheets will be available on the Equal Exchange table on Sundays beginning November 3. Just fill in an order form for each gift you'd like, return it with your payment, and we'll package the goodies in a holiday gift bag.

For Christmas: Order by December 10 for pick up on December 15.

If you can not come to the bridge to pick up your order - please let us know and we will make arrangements to get it to you.For more information, contact Sandy Sears at 910-228-5828 slsoct@yahoo.com or Marilyn Vernon at 301-908-8704 marilyn.vernon2@gmail.com .

**Please copy and paste the links to print copies of order forms if needed:**

## Gift Bags:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=9ba035169c&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1650739125429049630&th=16e89a7d1409991e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_k37i2bgi0

## Gift Baskets:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=9ba035169c&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1650739125429049630&th=16e89a7d1409991e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_k37i2nqo1

Friends,

A huge thank you for all your efforts in making the “Low County Boil” a success. A special thank you to the Hospitality Team and their spouse, Gidget Karlof, Chris and Elizabeth Murray and all the others who helped with setting up, cooking and cleanup.

Even though the weather was a quite breezy, the rain did hold out! Thanks be to God.

The food was absolutely delicious, and the added” Carolina Seabreeze” music perfect!! Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart, this would not have happened without each of you.

Blessings,

Patricia Shaffar, Hospitality Elder

## Women's Communion Luncheon

The Women from First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington have extended an invitation to the Women at the bridge to share a Communion Service with them on December 2nd at 11AM. Following this service we have been invited to join these women for a light lunch in Gilmore Hall. What a generous invitation for fellowship and worship with our sister church. Let's try to form a large group to partake of this invitation. Any Questions, contact Cathy Boettcher at cboettcher116@gmail.com

## Living Proof with Beth Moore in Wilmington

On April 24th and 25th, 2020, Living Proof Live with **Beth Moore** is coming to Wilmington, NC. Travis Cottrell will be leading the worship portion of this retreat at Trask Coliseum on the campus of UNCW.

The bridge will be collecting checks made out to **LifeWay Women Events for $65**. To reserve a general admission ticket, you must get this check to Wanda Batten by December 20th. On the 20th all checks will be sent to LifeWay to reserve our general admission tickets. If we can send in 75 or more checks, we will be guaranteed a priority section for our church and our guests. We have invited First Presbyterian to help us make this quota and we ask you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us so we can all be together to experience this event.

For further information go to LifeWay.com/Living Proof or call 800-254-2022.

# Session Meeting Summary, November 6, 2019

Clerk of Session, Susan Stanewick

The Session met for its regular stated meeting. Pastor Doug Cushing opened with prayer. Devotion provided by Patricia Shaffar. Minutes were approved.

**Clerk's report:** East Community Leader Training, Camp Kirkwood November 23 9-3 Registration is open to ruling elders and anyone who is interested. It will cover Book of Order, Book of Confessions, Church Leaders as Pastoral Care Givers and Presbytery Updates.

**Pastor's report:** Message of gratitude from Doug and Sharon was shared with the elders who created the video tribute for Pastor Appreciation month. Special thank you is extended to Romie Holmes and Cathy Boettcher.

Communication has been made with Nancy Gladden from Presbytery re: possible hosting of June community gathering with featured speaker from Pinnacle Leadership Associates.

**Building and Grounds:** A template application was provided for elders to review, upon approval it will be used by for-profit organizations to apply for use of the bridge facilities. Unanimously approved with change of the term "Administrative Assistant to Office Manager"

**Disaster Recovery Ministry:** Significant progress has been made on the Raleigh rebuild project. Much of the dry wall installation has been finished and new lighting fixtures are being installed. Information: The first planning session for the 2020 Brunswick County Hurricane Forum/ Expo will be held in Southport on Thursday, November 14th. Bridge team members will be attending and will participate on the planning committee. The Forum is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

**Generosity:** The 2020 budget is being created and all elders are requested to submit requests ASAP. A gift has been received from the estate of Dwight Warnock. Financial information has been sent to all elders for review.

**Hospitality:** A meet and greet social is scheduled for November 17th at Brunswick Forest community room for a low country boil.

**Mission:** Items for Hope Harbor Home were delivered, and they were very thankful. Our church-wide mission project will be Christmas stockings for Kids World Academy

**Prayer and Care:** Power of Prayer Project Update: Committee formed and had its first planning meeting on November 6th, with anticipation of launching the project in March 2020. Appreciation was extended to Cathy Purves and Marilyn Vernon for an informative and enlightening program for the women's group with regard to the power of prayer.

**Small Groups:** This ministry will continue to meet to revise the organization of sermon based small groups and other small interest groups.

**Worship:** Chrismon ornament group is moving forward at an enthusiastic pace. Other agenda topics will be considered at the worship team meeting. Doug's Advent series will come from Micah, Here Comes God. First Presbyterian Church will be inviting women to communion luncheon, Charlynne Caillaud is the contact. Woodburn Presbyterian Church has invited us to Thanksgiving service Wednesday evening.

**Communications/New business:**

Proposed Holiday Closing for Church Office
Jan 1st & 2nd - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined
MLK Jr - 3rd Monday in Jan
Memorial Day - 4th Monday in May
July 4th & 5th - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined
Labor Day - 1st Monday in September
Thanksgiving Day and Friday - 4th Thursday and Friday in November (possibly close early on Wed.)
December 25 & 26 - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined

**Nominating Team:** Patti Pirher report via Doug; A meeting was held November 4; 2 individuals have agreed and 3rd praying for decision. A congregational meeting will be called as soon as all nominees have accepted.

SESSION RETREAT PORTION
Review information re: transition from pastoral to program size church
Review notes from retreat

The elders realize that a season of discernment may take months and are asking the congregation for their prayers during this time.

**Next Stated Meeting: December 4, 2019 @ the bridge worship center, 4PM**

# Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Woodburn Presbyterian Church is holding a community-wide Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov 27th @ 7:00pm. The church is located at 509 Village Rd NE, Leland

## Travel Opportunity for Friends at the bridge!

## April 29 - May 10, 2020

We are looking for traveling companions as we plan for an 11 day European River Boat Cruise from Basel in Switzerland to Amsterdam on the Rhine River. This is an all-inclusive Uniworld Cruise (food, drink, daily excursions, and gratuities are all included). We'll qualify for a greatly reduced group rate if we reserve five cabins. Approximate cost for a deluxe cabin (large picture window) is $3,500.00 per person, plus airfare ($705.00 per person) and travel insurance ($450 per person). For more information look for the "Remarkable Rhine & Historic Holland" cruise at uniworld.com, or speak with Andrew and Cathy Purves who can email you a brochure, or contact our travel agent, Angie Fanning - angie@awaybug.com; 910-233-2220.

***Save the dates! April 30-May 1, 2020***
***At Montreat Conference Center***

A regional, day and a half conference sponsored by POAMN
(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network)

Stronger Together: Faith in Action Across Generations
An Older Adult Ministry Regional Conference not to be missed!

***Featuring outstanding leadership***

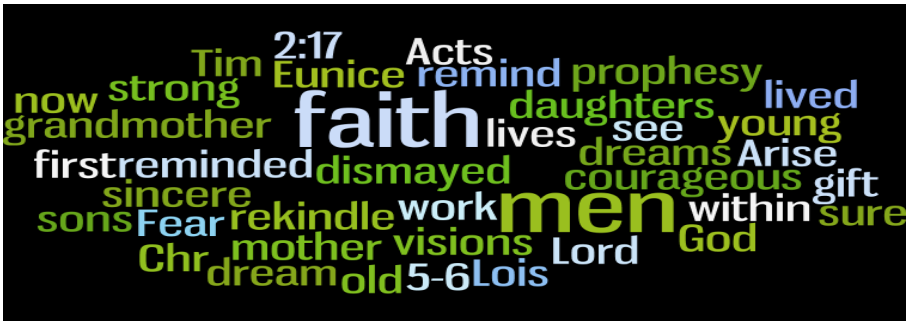
Dr. Eileen Lindner

Rev. Jon Brown

Rev. Cindy Kohlmann

Carla Karst

## Worship, keynotes, fellowship, workshops

This conference is for you if:
You work with older adults in your congregation (lay or clergy)
You want to build relationships across generations
If you seek to thrive after 55 in body, mind, and spirit
You seek the latest on current issues of aging and the church
You are a retired church professional

Don't delay! Beginning in November, you will be able to register on-line. Details available through the POAMN website, www.poamn.org and at www.montreat.org.